In the Claims:

1. A method for providing critical data in a hard drive, comprising:

    detecting a critical event;

    retrieving critical data likely to be requested;

    receiving a data request from a host device; and

    providing the critical data in response to the request.

2. The method of 1 wherein the critical event is power-on of the hard drive.

3. The method of 2 wherein retrieving critical data includes:

    retrieving data associated with host boot-up.

4. The method of 1 wherein retrieving critical data includes:

    accessing a critical data location information from FLASH; and

    retrieving the critical data, the location of the critical data on the hard drive derived from

the critical data location information.

5. The method of 1 further comprising:

    identifying the critical data likely to be requested.

6. The method of 5, wherein identifying the critical data further includes:

    recording past data requests associated with past occurrences of the critical event; and

    identifying the critical data from the past data requests.

7.   The method of 6 wherein identifying the critical data from the past data requests includes:

identifying the critical data to be a data requested in the most recent past data request

associated with a similar critical event.

8.   The method of 6 wherein identifying the critical data from the past data requests includes:

identifying the critical data to be a data most often requested in the past data requests

associated with a similar critical event.

9.   The method of 5, wherein identifying the critical data further includes:

receiving a vendor unique command from the host device; and

identifying the critical data to be data specified in the vendor unique command.